



Newsflash

Bank error in your favor; don't spend it

Soldiers who see an extra few hundred dollars in their mid-month January paychecks shouldn't spend it. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service made an error that will cause about 53,000 Soldiers to be paid too much in January. The Army will collect the funds from end of the month paychecks. Soldiers are being notified through their Army Knowledge Online accounts and chains of command, officials said. (ARNEWS)

Tucker promoted

Col. Michael S. Tucker, 1st Armored Division's assistant division commander for maneuvers, was promoted to brigadier general in a ceremony in Wiesbaden's Community Activity Center Jan. 7. Tucker, who enlisted in the Army in 1972, worked his way through the enlisted ranks before being selected for Officer Candidate School in 1979 where he earned recognition as a distinguished military graduate. He served with the 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, during Operations Desert Shield and Storm and 1st Brigade during Operation Iraqi Freedom. (1st Armored Division Public Affairs)



Dental premiums to rise in February

If you are enrolled in the Tricare Dental Program you may notice a small increase in your monthly premium starting in February. Premiums for active duty dependents will rise from \$9.07 to \$9.32 per month. Active duty family premiums will rise from \$22.66 to \$23.31 per month. Family members of active duty military, as well as reservists and their family members may enroll in the Tricare Dental Program at any time. This paid dental insurance plan, managed by United Concordia Companies, Inc., helps offset out-of-pocket expenses for civilian dental care, Tricare officials said. Contact your local Dental Clinic, call Tricare Europe at mil 496-6358 or email TDP@europe.tricare.osd.mil for more information. (Tricare Public Affairs)

Help needed for those who serve

Civilian DoD employees sought to support contingency operations

By Karl Weisel
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Fighting a war in Iraq or Afghanistan, keeping the peace in Kosovo, helping people in need after a natural disaster or tackling any number of other trouble spots around the globe takes the dedicated efforts of people from all branches of the service. Among the many uniformed men and women who deploy to the front lines of contingency operations is a handful of civilian Department of Defense employees who help support the military wherever it is called upon to serve.

"These people are making a difference," said Grace Ross, Human Support Services director for the 104th Area Support Group.

In order to better identify DoD civilian employees interested in playing a role in future contingency operations, the 104th ASG's Human Support Services Office is compiling a database of individuals from which the Installation Management Agency can draw when people are needed.

"People who are interested in volunteering should contact their respective Human Support Services office," said Ross. "We'll get some of their background information so that we can match up their skills with future needs. Our goal is to utilize their skills to the best of IMA's ability when there is a need for people with those skills. The intent is to identify skill sets, not positions."

Civilians who are not already identified as Emergency Essential are sought. "If you're already Emergency Essential, you are already in a database and don't need to be added to our database," said Ross.

Despite the challenges, civilian employees in the 104th ASG who have already experienced deployments to contingency operations said it was extremely rewarding.

"I was glad that I had the opportunity to go and provide a service that Soldiers needed," said Jeffery G. Morrison, a deployment specialist with the 222nd Base Support Battalion's Directorate of Logistics. "And I would be happy to do it again if asked to do so."

Morrison, who deployed to Iraq in the spring of 2004 for several weeks to help teach driver's training to Soldiers preparing to redeploy to Germany, said the 18-hour work days passed quickly as the work was rewarding.

"It gave us the opportunity to help the Soldiers one on one. ... (Afterwards) we had a lot of Soldiers come to us and thank us even after our return to Baumholder. That's what made it worthwhile to me — just knowing that they care."

"For a young person starting out the experience is great, the money is great and you get to learn from the experts," said Laura Waid, Morale Welfare and Recreation events coordinator for the 221st Base Support Battalion.

Waid, who deployed to Bosnia twice for seven and 10 months, said, "It was a really good experience. I think the biggest value for civilians is the opportunity to work closely with Soldiers. In a lot of jobs you are really separated from the Soldiers on a day-to-day basis. In Bosnia I got to experience what they were going through more so than in my job at Fort Carson."

See Help needed on page 4



Photo illustration by Karl Weisel

Soldiers and civilians are required to be trained in the prevention of sexual harassment and assault.

Training aimed at preventing assaults

By David Ruderman
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Soldiers and civilians throughout the 104th Area Support Group will undergo Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Training, said officials.

The Army-wide training is designed to eliminate incidents of sexual assault through an educational program that emphasizes prevention, immediate response to allegations of assault, effective support for victims and an evaluation process.

"Sexual assault is inexcusable," said Col. Herman "Tracy" Williams III, 104th ASG com-

mander. "When it occurs within our ranks it undermines discipline and distracts from our mission. Emphasis must be heightened to ensure equity and fairness across the ranks."

The training is mandatory for all Soldiers and civilians in the 104th ASG.

It will stress awareness that sexual assault is a criminal offense that will be punished, the inadmissibility of predatory behavior in work and living environments both on post and off, sensitive and immediate treatment and support for victims, and the aggressive investigation of alleged infrac-

See Assaults on page 3

Inside

Welcome home in Wiesbaden
Members of the 557th Medical Company get a warm homecoming from Iraq and share their stories. See pages 6 and 7.



Exploring the Eternal City
Visitors to Italy's capital discover something unusual in every nook and cranny. See pages 14 and 15.



Commentary

Bell sends

Drugs are not an option

Commentary by Gen. B.B. Bell

U.S. Army Europe commander



U.S. Army Europe recently lost another young Soldier due to apparent substance abuse. He was found sitting in a chair covered in his own vomit after he failed to appear for formation. He did not die while trying to save a buddy or fighting the Global War on Terrorism. He died, apparently, because he chose to use drugs.

Leaders: We have a problem. This is the second fatality apparently due to substance abuse in USAREUR this quarter. Tragedies such as this are unacceptable. We must do everything we can to prevent them from happening.

Soldiers: With my Under the Oak Tree guidance I directed your leaders, supervisors and fellow Soldiers to become involved in your lives in an effort to put an end to such senseless deaths. I expect our leaders to help you make mature decisions that will keep you alive. If this sounds like I want leaders to "get involved in your business," you're right.

It is my responsibility to ensure that each of you is trained and ready to serve our nation — anytime, anywhere — with little or no advance warning. Soldiers who abuse drugs are not prepared for this challenge.

A unit that loses a Soldier is no longer as capable and ready. A Soldier with a drug problem is not someone we want driving our trucks, repairing our aircraft or protecting our flanks in combat. If you have a drug problem, get help. If your buddy has a drug problem, ensure that he or she gets help.

The Army Substance Abuse Program has a variety of professional treatment options, counseling and prevention resources available in every community. Your local medical treatment facility, chaplain or chain of command can help you obtain assistance through ASAP.

Never forget that Soldiers are the Army's most valuable asset. Each of you has volunteered to be a highly skilled warrior. The talents you bring to the battlefield are far more important than the most powerful tank or aircraft our Army has. The Army needs every one of you to be ready to meet the challenges in the Global War on Terrorism.

Leaders: Ensure that this safety alert receives the widest possible distribution. Forward it electronically and post it on unit bulletin boards. No loss of life is our goal. I need every Soldier trained, ready and fit to continue to execute with excellence. Any Mission. Anywhere.



Job fairs: meet the future now

By Carolyn Dewey

Hanau Army Community Service employment readiness manager

Job fairs present unique opportunities to meet recruiters and hiring officials before they read your resume.

They provide job seekers direct access to employers and recruiters, a free pass for interviews. It is a time for job hunters to sell themselves to potential employers, inquire about current and projected vacancies and discuss potential career opportunities.

Keep in mind that job fairs are not social gatherings. Those who are focused and prepared are more likely to walk away with job offers.

To succeed at a job fair one must first present a professional image. Dress as you would for an interview; your appearance is as important as what you have to say. A briefcase or portfolio can add to a potential employee's overall image and is helpful too in organizing documents.

Research the participating agencies that are of interest to you. Learn about their mission, services, clientele and needs. Mastering this background information can help job seekers speak intelligently to agency representatives about how they could be an asset to the organization.

Bring several copies of your resume. Print them out on conservative, resume quality paper. Cover letters are not necessary; you are the cover letter to your resume.

Letters of recommendation can set potential hires apart from other job seekers. Although the hiring manager may not read them at the fair, he or she will have additional information to tip the scale in your favor if an initial interest is established.

Finally, be prepared to handle interviews on the spot. The most common types of interviews conducted during job fairs are screening interviews, mini-interviews and full interviews.

Screening interviews are primarily used to weed out individuals who are not of interest to the hiring representative and to gather together the resumes of those who may be of interest. Try to take the opportunity at this juncture to point out specific items on your resume that meet or would be of interest to the hiring organization's needs.

Mini-interviews are usually short and are often conducted at the employer's table or booth. The interviewer will



Photo by Marie J. DeLopez

Hanau Army Community Service's Kristi Colthoff (left) and Carolyn Dewey review job search tools.

expect you to give some background information about yourself and your employment history, and to elaborate on key points of your resume. Always keep the organization's needs in mind when pitching your strengths.

Full interviews generally take place in a private room or away from the crowd. Be prepared to elaborate on your education, experience and skills. When the interview is done, always inquire about the next step in the process. Ask for a business card and thank the interviewer.

Job seekers can learn about employment opportunities in Hanau and surrounding communities by taking advantage of a Job Fair scheduled for Feb. 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Community Activity Center on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. Consider preparing for the Job Fair by attending job search classes at Army Community Service. For more information call the employment readiness manager at mil 322-9191 or civ (06181)88-9191.

IG Corner



By Maj. Alfred A. Acenas

104th Area Support Group inspector general

The 104th Area Support Group Inspector General's Office provides customers an avenue to address complaints and concerns with a variety of Army-related functions. The IG's primary mission is to assist customers in dealing with complaints or concerns involving installation and community support activities within the 104th ASG footprint.

In many cases the IG will accept the complaint, work the issues with the complainant and, as needed, coordinate with the appropriate agencies to address and ultimately resolve the issue. Soldiers and civilians should, however, be aware that before submitting complaints to the IG they should first discuss their concerns with their supervisor,

director management or commander whenever possible or applicable.

Soldiers who have complaints concerning their chain of command or concerning a function or situation within their unit and desire IG assistance should contact their servicing tactical IG office. Tactical IG offices that support Soldiers in the 104th ASG include:

U.S. Army Europe: call mil 370-7316/7317

V Corps: call mil 370-5079/5075/5090

1st Armored Division: call mil 337-4294/4295/4296

21st Theater Support Command: call mil 484-7075

3rd Corps Support Command: call mil 337-5803/5040

5th Signal Command: call mil 380-5524/5537

Europe Regional Medical Command: call mil 371-2504.

The 104th ASG IG Office is in Building 1106, second floor, on Hutier Kaserne in Hanau. Telephone numbers are mil 322-1420, 323-2238/2022/2021; fax number is mil 322-5555. We welcome your comments and questions, and hope to serve you in the near future.

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News and features

Newsflash

Haus Rissen seminars

Haus Rissen will conduct eight seminars in 2005 for Army in Europe military and civilian personnel stationed in Germany — March 7-11, May 8-13 and Dec. 11-16 for field grade officers and equivalent grade civilians; April 18-22 and June 20-24 for company grade officers and equivalent grade civilians; June 6-10 and Oct. 30 to Nov. 4 for noncommissioned officers and equivalent grade civilians. Haus Rissen, an international institute for politics and economics, provides an opportunity for Army in Europe military and civilian personnel to gain a better understanding of the host nation and German-American relations. A guided sightseeing tour of the city of Hamburg and harbor is part of the program. Call the 104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office at mil 322-1400 for more information and to sign up.

Sexual harassment training

Training in the Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault will be presented in German Jan. 26 at 10 a.m. in Building 1205, Room 401 on Hanau's Yorkhof Kaserne. Call Irene Thoene at mil 323-2431 for more information.

Incentive Awards deadline

Commanders and agency managers must make nominations by Feb. 25 for the 2005 Army Europe Annual Incentive Awards, which recognize individuals and groups who have made significant contributions to the Army mission in 2004. Details and nomination forms are available on the web at www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/cpd. Under "Awards," click on AE Reg. 672-1 to access AE Form 672-1b. Nominations should be submitted to the proponent agencies indicated at <https://www.aeaim.hqusareur.army.mil/library> in Circular 672-1. (USAREUR Release)

U.S. population grows

The United States' population grew by 1 percent, 2.9 million people, between July 1, 2003, and July 1, 2004, to 293.7 million, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates. With a growth rate of 4.1 percent, Nevada ranked first among states for the 18th consecutive year. Other fast-growing states included Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Georgia, Texas, Utah, Delaware, North Carolina and New Mexico in order of population growth. California remained the most populous state in the nation with 35.9 million people in 2004. The second most populous states were Texas (22.5 million) and New York (19.2 million). This month the United States is expected to register one birth every eight seconds and one death every 13 seconds. (Courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau)

Tsunami relief

Service Credit Union members and non-members are invited to donate to help those experiencing the effects of the tidal waves in southern Asia and East Africa. The credit union will match all donations up to a total of \$50,000 and give the money to AmeriCares. For more information visit the www.servicecu.org website or stop by a branch of Service Credit Union. (Service Credit Union Release)

Long-time employee dies

A funeral service was held for Jeanne Jones, former long-time U.S. Army Europe employee who was instrumental in the creation of the German-American Kontakt Club program, Jan. 15 in Hanshushheim. Jones, age 82, died Jan. 6 of natural causes. Jones received the Bundesverdienstkreuz I. Klasse, the highest award given by the German government to civilians, for her special service to Germany in 1973. She is survived by her children Rick Stanley, Ted Stanley, Alex Jones and Philippa Jones. (USAREUR Public Affairs)

Stay safe on winter roads

Watch out for hidden ice patches, other potential hazards

With the temperatures bouncing all over the thermometer this winter, drivers are cautioned to be extremely cautious when heading out on German roads.

Making sure vehicles are in top condition, all wipers and lights are working, tires have plenty of tread and emergency

gear is on board are vital to staying safe.

Besides the hazards of snow, sleet and fog, drivers should be aware that ice can form on roadways even when it is not visible and the temperature is right around freezing. "Black ice" commonly forms in areas that don't get direct sunlight

such as under bridges, in forested areas and other shaded places.

When temperatures drop, drivers should adjust their driving habits accordingly. After properly clearing all surfaces of the vehicle of snow and ice, drivers should proceed with caution — that means slowing down considerably to avoid going into a slide when braking or turning and to allow plenty of time to get to a destination.

As in any other season, drivers should also never mix alcohol with getting behind the wheel of a vehicle. Use a designated driver if planning to imbibe.

For more information about winter driving safety visit the U.S. Army Europe home page at www.hqusareur.army.mil and click on "USAREUR Winter Safety Campaign" under the Safety heading on the right side of the page.

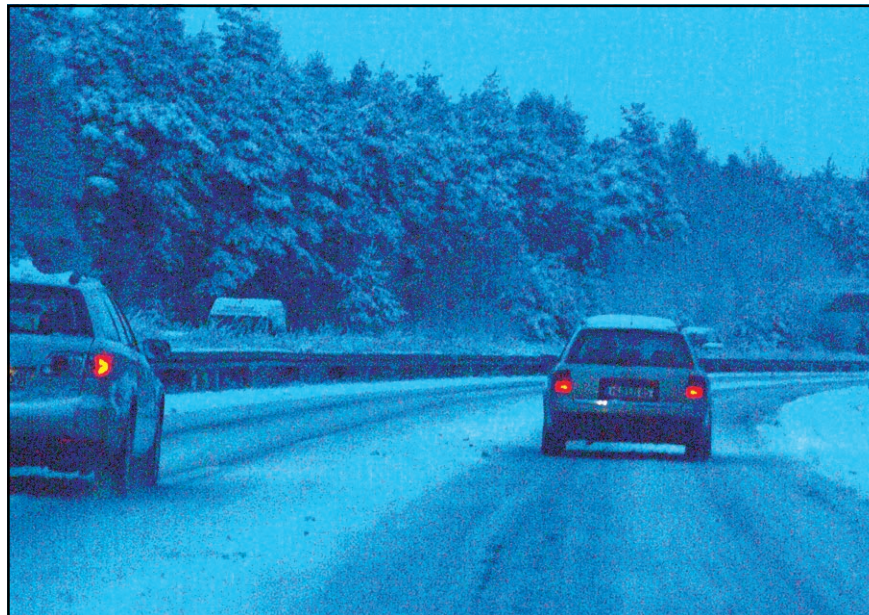


Photo by Karl Weisel

Winter weather brings all kinds of new challenges for drivers in Europe. Beware of ice-covered roads and obstructed vision due to snow or fog.

New online job application tool

The Army will deploy a new version of the Army civilian Resume Builder and Answer on Jan. 18.

The new Resume Builder will modernize, simplify and shorten the application process, according to officials. The new tool will combine both the Resume Builder and Answer into one application providing a number of benefits to applicants for U.S. Appropriated Fund positions.

Users with existing Resume Builder and Answer accounts should log in as "Registered Users" when first accessing the new Resume Builder/Answer application. Users will be prompted to verify/update their registration information.

Users' resumes will not appear in the new builder, therefore, it is highly recommended that they save a copy of their current resume. Current resumes in the Centralized Resumix Database may still be used to self-nominate for vacancy announcements.

Officials said enhancements and features of the new Resume Builder/Answer include:

- ✓ Army Civilian Resume Builder and Answer are now together under one login process.
- ✓ Capability to toggle between Resume Builder and

Answer.

✓ User friendly/menu driven — no more scrolling down one long page.

✓ Enhanced copy, cut and paste capability — able to copy from Answer and paste into Resume Builder.

✓ Worksheet formats available for work experience, education and additional information — puts information in proper format.

✓ New job experience entries will automatically be entered at the beginning of the resume.

✓ One large box for job experience versus six individual boxes — allows for more flexibility.

✓ Up to 12,000 characters for job experience description.

✓ Status tracking enhanced — only last 25 entries displayed, with option to view more.

✓ Enhanced help menus available for applicant's use.

To learn more on how to apply for Army jobs, visit the Employment section of the CHRA-E website at <http://www.chra.eur.army.mil> or the new Army CPOL Portal at <http://cpol.army.mil>. (Civilian Human Resource Agency Europe)

Assaults

Continued from page 1

tions, said officials.

"The Army task force put this together to say, 'You will start doing this. You will make sure the Soldiers and civilians will know it's not going to happen in our Army,'" said Grace Ross, Human Support Services director for the 104th ASG.

ASG directorate chiefs were tasked to have action plans in place by Jan. 10. All Soldiers are to be briefed by the end of January and all civilian employees by the end of February, said Ross.

The training has already been administered to almost all Soldiers serving with the 104th ASG, said Capt. Melisa Hartigan, 104th ASG adjutant.

"Many of the NCOs impressed on the younger Soldiers

that we all have a duty to report incidents of sexual assault. Not reporting incidents is not an option. If a Soldier is aware an incident occurred, it is his or her duty to report it," she said.

"Soldiers were also interested in knowing what steps they could take to assist a victim, beyond reporting the incident. Available resources were discussed, and we made sure the Soldiers understood what actions a victim should take following an incident," Hartigan said.

Victims are to be immediately provided all possible medical and psychological services that may help them, and their privacy is to be effectively guarded, said officials.

"Several Military Police were present during the training and used their experience in dealing with sexual assault incidents as an additional training tool," said Hartigan.

News and features

Army supporting tsunami relief effort

Units deploy to help those in need in devastated areas

By Eric Cramer
Army News Service

Several Army units are among the many military assets the United States is using to bring relief to the victims of an earthquake-induced tsunami in the Far East.

Deploying as part of the Combined Support Force for the disaster relief effort are a variety of Army experts from areas as widely spread apart as Thailand and Arkansas.

U.S. Army Forces Command is sending four mortuary affairs teams from Fort Lee, Va. The teams will provide help in identification, processing and evacuation of the dead from the disaster.

The 8th Army, Korea, is deploying medical and logistic units including CH-47 Chinook helicopters to provide evacuation and supply distribution and medical assistance to those in the affected areas.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is sending three Forward Engineering Support Teams from Japan, Alaska and Arkansas to help in the area's recovery. Each team consists of a military team leader, a civil engineer, a structural engineer and a geotechnical engineer.

In addition to the team members, each team will also include two noncommissioned officers with the Corps of Engineers' 249th Primary Power Battalion, according to Corps spokesman, Lt. Col. Stan Heath.

The team deploying from Alaska will provide assistance to Indonesia. The Japan contingent is headed to Sri Lanka, and the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cohen A. Young

Secretary of State Colin Powell (left) and Florida Governor Jeb Bush meet with Col. Jack Dibrell, chief of the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group Thailand, in Bangkok, Thailand, Jan. 4 to discuss relief efforts. The U.S. military has shipped more than 350,000 pounds of materials.

team from Arkansas is headed to Thailand.

The teams will help assess the damage to the countries' infrastructure and aid with reconstruction planning.

In addition to the FEST support, an engineer from the Engineering Research and Development Center, in Vicksburg, Miss., has also headed to the area. The engineer is a Thai native who will be attached to the Joint Task Force Humanitarian Assistance Cell. Originally planning to travel to Thailand to participate as a liaison in the annual Cobra Gold exercise, she has now gone to the region separate from the FEST teams to reinforce Army efforts in the area.

U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C., is sending three civil affairs

teams and a psychological operations assessment team. The CA teams consist of a planning team and two civil affairs teams to coordinate relief efforts. The PSYOP assessment team will use its broadcast and production capabilities to focus on information distribution in concert with local officials and relief organizations.

The Army is part of a joint and combined expeditionary force deploying from around the globe to support this disaster relief effort. U.S. Army Pacific is the lead coordinating command for Army support to the CSF.

For more information about the Department of Defense's relief efforts and useful links browse on the Internet to www.defenselink.mil/home/features/tsunami.

Help needed

Continued from page 1

Waid said she volunteered to deploy while working for Outdoor Recreation in Fort Carson. "I did it for the experience and the adventure."

The Bosnia deployments provided her with a wealth of diverse learning opportunities as

she had to oversee everything from sporting events to running a library. "I had a lot of good guidance. My bosses were just a phone call away," Waid said, adding that contractors and others with more experience were also very helpful during both deployments.



Photo courtesy of Laura Waid

Laura Waid (second from right) helps open the "Peacekeepers Hall" sports complex at Eagle Base, Bosnia, during her deployment there in 2002.

News flash

New Human Services Support numbers

The 104th Area Support Group's new Human Support Services Office can be reached at mil 323-3685 or 2431.

Army Civilian Personnel Online Portal

A new online portal system has been established to make life easier for civilian employees and supervisors seeking to access human resource tools. The Army Civilian Personnel Online Portal, <http://acpol.army.mil>, features several sections for people seeking jobs, a reference library, tools for employees and managers, and more. For more information call Trina Schroeder at civ (0621) 487 2537.

Groundhog Job Shadow Day

Department of Dependents Schools Europe students will have the opportunity to participate in Groundhog Job Shadow Day Feb. 2. Students will shadow a workplace mentor to see how he or she goes through a normal day on the job. For more information call your local school or visit the www.jobshadow.org website. (DoDDS-Europe Public Affairs)

Think twice before shoplifting

Shoplifting is a crime that could cost a military member his or her career and a lot of money as well. "Whatever excuses people come up with to justify their actions, the fact remains that none of them are good enough reasons to risk a career over," said Steve Bass, Headquarters Army and Air Force Exchange Service loss prevention manager. Military exchanges spend millions of dollars each year to foil shoplifters, including measures to deter and detect thefts. As a result AAFES apprehends more than 10,000 shoplifters every year who are turned over to the Military Police and their units for criminal and Uniform Code of Military Justice action. On top of these actions, AAFES and other federal retailers are authorized to collect a \$200 administrative fee on top of the value of the shoplifted item(s). Sponsors are financially responsible for their family members' actions, and parents of minors caught shoplifting will be billed for the costs. (AAFES Release)

ACAP update

All Army Career and Alumni Program clients must now have an Army Knowledge Online account and password to use any automated systems, including the automated pre-separation counseling. ACAP will host a series of veterans' benefits briefings in January. Department of Veterans Affairs representatives will conduct the briefings from 9-11:30 a.m. Jan. 18 in Hanau, Jan. 20 in Wiesbaden, Jan. 21 in Giessen and Jan. 26 in Baumholder. Call Hanau ACAP at mil 322-8308, Baumholder ACAP at mil 485-6330, Giessen ACAP at mil 343-9332 or Wiesbaden ACAP at mil 337-5709 for details and to enroll.

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Conference to focus on quality of life issues

By Karen Edge
*221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office*

Each year Soldiers, civilians, retirees and their family members get a chance to make a difference and voice their suggestions to improve quality of life and well-being for their community through the Army Family Action Plan.

The 221st Base Support Battalion will host its annual AFAP conference Feb. 2-4 at the Community Activity Center at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

“When people hear about our conference, it sounds really formal and like a lot of red tape. But it isn’t that way,” said Pia Morales, Army Community Service program educator. “I just ask people if they have any deployment related issues or any frustrations regarding housing or child care. People relate to that.”

This is a chance for people to voice their opinions and to see change.”

AFAP is an annual initiative designed to identify, prioritize and resolve community well-being concerns. Issues gathered from these conferences give commanders and leaders insight into current satisfaction, detractors, quality of life needs and expectations of Army constituents. They can then use this to improve living conditions and develop information and support programs that foster better informed and more satisfied Army community members.

AFAP is the only program in the Army that works in this fashion, where stated issues brought up at the local base support battalion level can be taken all the way up to Congress for resolution, Morales said. Delegates consisting of married and single Soldiers, dual mili-

tary and single parents, retirees, Department of the Army civilians, family members and youth meet to develop well-being concerns to present to leadership using the issue, scope and recommendation format.

“There are so many AFAP success stories that I hope to encourage our community members to come out and participate in this year’s conference,” said Edwina Brown, acting ACS officer. These include the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program; Women, Infants and Children-Europe and Army Family Team Building. Other results of AFAP issues include the addition of the military Thrift Savings Plan and an increase from \$50,000 to \$200,000 for the Service Members Group Life insurance plan.

“It is obvious AFAP works. So if anyone has an issue, bring it to

the table,” said Brown.

Community members within the 221st Base Support Battalion can pick up issue papers at the Wiesbaden Commissary, consolidated mail room, library, Wiesbaden and Dexheim ACS and the Community Bank at McCully Barracks. After the sheets are completed they can be dropped off in the AFAP boxes where the forms were picked up. Once the AFAP conference convenes the concerns will be identified, developed and prioritized.

Morales urged community members to complete and submit issue papers. The main focus for many participants includes consumer services such as Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, medical and dental facilities, Family Readiness Groups, child development centers and houses.

Issues do not have to be limited to these categories. At the end of the conference participants must pick out four services provided by the BSB which the community feels are the most important.

"Is it the commissary or ACS? If you love a service this is your chance to let the Army know and keep it funded," said Morales. "Part of the goal is to pick the most valuable top four services, anything from AAFES to dental care to force protection."

To date, the 542 issues worked through the AFAP process have resulted in 82 pieces of legislation, 130 Army, Office of the Secretary of Defense policy changes and 140 improvements or start-ups of programs or services, said Brown.

“A majority of these issues are specific to the community and can be addressed at that level. The issues that can’t be fixed locally are the ones forwarded by the ASG commander for inclusion in the Army in Europe AFAP conference,” Brown said.

Issues selected during the AFAP must have a community-wide impact and be obtainable. Those that cannot be resolved on a local basis are then forwarded to the 104th Area Support Group conference, which in turn will select the top issues to be presented to the Installation Management Agency-Europe and the Department of Army.

Volunteers are needed to make the program a success.

“We need delegates, transcribers, greeters and facilitators to make this happen. We will train all our volunteers and provide on-site day care at no cost to the participants,” said Brown. “Their work in AFAP at the community level will help us



Photo by Karen Edge

Issue forms and submission boxes for the upcoming Army Family Action Plan conference are available throughout the community.

pinpoint the most important concerns of our families. It's their work now that will make a gigantic difference in the future of Army programs."

For information on how to volunteer or how to submit an issue call Army Community Service at mil 337-5034/5754 or civ (0611) 705-5034/5754.

Subject matter experts from the following agencies will be on-hand Feb. 3 at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Community Activity Center to offer assistance and guidance during the final day of the Army Family Action Plan.

- ★ Directorate of Community Activities
- ★ Chaplain Services
- ★ Directorate of Public Works
- ★ Public Affairs Office
- ★ Provost Marshal's Office
- ★ Directorate of Logistics
- ★ Army Community Service
- ★ Dexheim installation coordinator
- ★ Defense Logistic Agency
- ★ American Arms Hotel
- ★ Amelia Earhart Center
- ★ Wiesbaden and Dexheim Medical/Dental Clinics
- ★ Tricare
- ★ Civilian Personnel Service center
- ★ 8th Finance Battalion
- ★ 55th Personnel Service Battalion
- ★ 55th Postal Company
- ★ Staff Judge Advocate
- ★ Community Bank
- ★ DoDDS
- ★ AAFES
- ★ Defense Commissary Agency
- ★ Child and Youth Services